



Newsletter
**Moreton Island Protection
 Committee Inc.**

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mipc@moretonisland.org.au



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Restriction to access on Little Sandhills

©

Restricted access area

Unauthorised entry prohibited

Little Sandhills sand blow

A restricted access area has been declared over the Little Sandhills sand blow to protect and manage the cultural features and attributes of the area.

Entry to the Little Sandhills sand blow area (refer to map) is prohibited without written approval. All current permits for the area are suspended during this closure.

This is a joint initiative between the Quandamooka People and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Contravention of a requirement of this notice is an offence under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*.
 Maximum penalty: 80 penalty units. On-the-spot fines apply.



Queensland Government

©

Signs were placed along the boundary of the restricted access area in October.

The placement of signage restricting access on the Little Sandhills was not followed up with any notification to stakeholders, nor was it even listed in Park alerts, where management actions affecting Park

visitors would normally be placed. The closure was located as one of 14 links under the heading of “Maps and useful Links” (for Moreton Island). (cont. on p. 2)

Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

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Executive Members

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Secretary: Pam Schindler

Treasurer: Peta Frampton

Executive Committee:

Helen Sutherland *minutes secretary*

Annette Allen

Leonie Hegvold

Greg Curtis

Janet Dovers

Statement of Aims

1. To promote the preservation of Moreton Island as a natural area to be managed for public recreation and enjoyment provided always that the recreational uses are consistent with conservation aims.

2. To foster the conservation of the vegetation, fauna and natural features of Moreton.

3. To facilitate public awareness and appreciation of Moreton Island as a natural area and encourage support for its preservation and management in accordance with these objects.

4. To co-operate with, or promote co-operation by any means with and among persons, trusts, corporations, firms, associations, institutions, governments, instrumentalities or government, municipal authorities and other bodies in the Commonwealth or its Territories or elsewhere for the purpose of carrying out any object of the organisation.

5. To oppose any development or usage of Moreton Island which is contrary to the preservation and good management of the island in accordance with these objects.

6. Generally, to take such lawful action as it considers necessary or appropriate in the interests of promoting the preservation and good management of Moreton Island in accordance with these objects.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Moreton Island Protection Committee or its members.

Contributions to this newsletter are welcome, but the editors accept no responsibility for alterations made to articles.

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Editor Alan Gennings,

Little Sandhills closed (cont. from page 1)

On 29th October we wrote to the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, the Minister responsible. In a response dated 3rd December we were informed that

“[t]he recent implementation of a temporary Restricted Access Area (RAA) to part of the Little Sandhills blow, in the southern area of Moreton Island National Park was due to a culturally significant discovery and at the request of the Islands Traditional Owners and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC).

“The Restricted Access Area (RAA) is currently temporary for up to six months and until further investigations can be done to refine the scope of the RAA.

“Upon the express wishes of QYAC, the Department of Environment and Science will not discuss further detail on the discovery. Please be assured the decision to implement a RAA was not taken lightly and was justified.”



Pig feeder at a BLN site; seen during weeding of Mossman River Grass. Photo 3 July 2018.

Email List

MIPC now has a functioning email list courtesy of Google groups. If you received a hard copy of this newsletter but not a recent email, then advise us by email.

We will continue to send members a hard copy, as this the best format to keep members and their friends informed. Two newsletters a year is now the aim, so costs will be nominal. We print extra hard copies to distribute on the MICat, as it is important to get our messages out.

Membership expiry date

The expiry date of your membership according to our records is printed on the address label of your newsletter.

Donations to MIPC

MIPC welcomes your tax-deductible donations. These are used solely for conservation activities. Membership is not tax - deductible. If you would like to contribute more please add a tax-deductible donation with your membership payment.

EFT Details

BSB: 633 000 Bendigo Bank
Account #: 141368456
Acct Name: Moreton Island Protection Committee. Enter your name in the reference box. Please notify us by email, phone or mail of your payment. Make it clear to us how much of your payment is to be used for forward membership payment and how much is a tax-deductible donation.

Cane toad found 16 December 2018

A cane toad was found by the Cane Toad Detecting Dog (CTD) on 16th December at Tangalooma. The most likely entry to Moreton was in aged mulch brought from the mainland.

The toad was found on the first day of the 5-day search by CTD dogs funded by the Brisbane City Council. Tangalooma provided accommodation.

Moreton is classed as cane toad-free, as to date there is no evidence toads have bred on Moreton Island. During the CTD searches, water samples are also collected and sent to laboratories for testing for previous presence of cane toads in the water.

Toad-free status awareness survey

The BCC has placed a large solar-powered roadside sign with flashing message at the side of the entrance to the MICat terminal. This type of sign is used to warn of road works etc. Occupants of a total of 70 cars were surveyed on 5am on 21st, 8.30 am on 29th and 8.30 am on 30th December.

Surprisingly, 73% of first-time visitors did not notice the sign. The surveyor (Alan) found this to be unbelievable. One respondent didn't see it from the car but noticed it when walking back from the toilet. Of concern are the 28% of occupants who missed the sign and were unaware of Moreton's toad-free status.

Repeat visitors were twice as likely as first-time visitors to know Moreton as toad free. A truck driver claimed his profession predisposed him to seeing the sign. Another truck driver did not see the sign! BCC responded to the survey by removing the sign and placing a new sign on the MICat.

Volunteers hours from 2014

2018	No persons	Weeding hours	Rubbish hours	Propagation hours	Total hours
23-26 Aug	9	19	2	60	81
14-16 Sept	25	170	5	37	212
19-21 Oct	12	36	0	56	92
7 Nov	4	6	0	8	14
13-15 Dec	7	20	0	46	66
July to Dec	57	251	7	207	465
Jan to Jun	51	154	20	219	444
2018 totals	108	405	27	426	909
<i>2017 totals</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>788</i>	<i>1304</i>
<i>2016 totals</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>429</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>491</i>	<i>1041</i>
<i>2015 totals</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>507</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>646</i>	<i>1153</i>
<i>2014 totals</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>277</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>635</i>	<i>1041</i>

Plantings report

Checks of previous plantings confirm success rates are 90% or better. Examination of Casuarina that did not survive showed planting technique the most common reason for death. All dead Casuarina were planted far too shallow. For successful planting at least a third of the above ground stem should be buried, to help the roots easily reach moist sand.

Total plantings at The Big Gully plus

2018	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Other	Total
19 Oct	23			23
16 Dec	31		58	89
Total 2018	54		58	112
Total 2017	66			66
Total 2016	29	100	148	277
Total 2015	230	134	192	556
Total 2014	487	28	74	589
Total to date	866	262	472	1600

Plantings at Casuarina Grove

2018	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Ground cover	Total
11-13 May	50				50
23 Aug	54				54
11 Sept	20				20
2018 Total	124				124
2017	37				37
2016	105	14	55		174
Total to date	390	14	55		459

Plantings at Cape carpark

	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Ground cover	Total
2016	120	40			

Plantings at North Point

2018	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Tuckeroo	Total
9 Mar-	24			1	25
23 Mar-		15			15
21 Apr-	55	15		3	73
11 May-	150	8			158
19 Oct	40				
15 Dec	60	1		1	
2018 Total	329	39	1	4	373
2017	167			25	202
Total to date	496	39	26	14	575

Whats on ... !!!!

Feb 28 - 3rd March: volunteers at Blue Lagoon (limited places)

1-3rd March: volunteers at Blue Lagoon

3rd March: Clean Up Aust day session – meet at Blue Lagoon CTO site

Mar 15–17: Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Mar 29–31: Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

May 10–12: Volunteers at Blue Lagoon. hurs AGM

Saturday departure: If unable to come on Friday, you may be able to come on Saturday. Please nominate at least two weeks in advance so we can confirm availability of a vehicle for your transfer to Blue Lagoon.

BYO sleeping bag, food, plates, mug, cutlery and esky. Camp kitchen and tents with stretchers provided.

Volunteer contact and bookings

****Please book at least 1 week in advance****

Alan 0428783781 (text only please), *email*

alan@moretonexperience.com

or call MIPC's answering service on 33211463.

Departure and return

DEPART from 14 Howard Smith Drive, Port of Brisbane, **Friday 8.30 am**. Arrive **by 7.50am** for orderly loading of luggage. Meet at the back of the Caltex truck stop in Howard Smith Drive, where your luggage can be transferred to a vehicle.

Sat 8.30 am: Your luggage will travel on the deck of the MICat.

At the MIPC ticket office, do not pay for your MICat fare, as your fare is to be paid by account.

Parking: MICAT charges \$15 per day for parking.

Car parking on the street is recommended. Do NOT park where there are yellow lines.

If parking on the street, it is OK to drive in to drop your luggage and then park on the street. Street park past the MICat terminal. As for all return trips your luggage can travel in a vehicle, and the vehicle will turn right into Howard Smith Drive to unload.

RETURN departure from The Wrecks: **4.30pm Sunday**.

Volunteer work at Blue Lagoon

This season work will include planting out at the Cape, propagation at the North Point nursery; weeding Prickly Pear & Mossman River Grass and collecting rubbish. This season's work is by volunteers and MIPC.

Too busy to volunteer? A tax-deductible donation to support volunteers is great way to contribute.

Volunteer costs

Volunteers for 3-day trips are required to pay an annual fee of \$50 as a contribution towards ferry fares for the year. The one-off annual contribution is required when nominating for first trip. Volunteers who return within 12 months can do so free of charge.

Volunteers attending for 3 days work for 9 hours.

Volunteers for the two-day trip are required to pay a one-off annual fee of \$80. Subsequent trips within the year will require payment of \$40 for each trip. Volunteers attending for just two days can only complete 6 hours' work. A 90-minute return trip is required to transfer volunteers arriving on Saturday. Thus MIPC asks two-day volunteers to pay a larger portion of their transport costs to attend.

Membership form

Name

Address.....

..... Post code

Email

Phone..... Mob

I consent to my photo, taken during MIPC activities, and my name being published in the public domain (cross out if you do not wish photo of you to be published)

Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Annual fee \$10 Household \$15 Pens./Conc. \$5

\$..... for years membership.

\$..... as a tax-deductible donation;

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

The MIPC Public Fund is a public fund listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*

Circle method of payment;

EFT transfer cheque money order cash

BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank Acct # 141368456

Acct Name Moreton Island Protection Committee.

Please enter your name in the EFT reference box.

Please report EFT payments by email or mail.

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